

Dunlevie or Thornwood M. E. Church

This church was built in 1907 during the time the Dunlevie Lumber Company operated at this place. Later when they sold out to the Thornwood Lumber Company the name of the place was changed to Thornwood, and the church is now called the Thornwood church. There were quite a number of members of the M. E. South denomination, holding their membership at Bartow, living in this community, so they wished to build an M. E. South church. The president of the Dunlevie Lumber Company was, however, a staunch and loyal M. E. and insisted on having a church of that faith. He even went so far as to say that if the M. E. preacher H. Blackhurst did not come up there to preach that he would get a preacher from his home in Pennsylvania to come down and serve the church. Therefore, Rev. Blackhurst went to Dunlevie and a church was built by the lumber company who furnished everything. At that time there were a great many people at Dunlevie and Rev. Blackhurst became the resident pastor of that one church.

Later it was made an appointment on the same circuit as the Durbin M. E. church, now it is not on any circuit, and there is preaching only occasionally by an exhorter from Durbin by the name of Hoover. (W. W. Hoover)

Thornwood is just another of our lumber towns that has been just about abandoned.

The deed to this church was given on April 9, 1907 by A. M. V. Arbogast and Eliza Arbogast his wife. The trustees are not named. Many of the members were lumbermen who went away when the lumber company moved out.